

## Letter to John D. Wright, May 3, 1916, with transcript

COPY May 3, 1916. Mr. Jno. D. Wright, #1 Mt. Morris Park, West, New York City, N. Y.,  
My dear Mr. Wright:—

The reply to your note of April 24th., has been delayed in order that I might have a chance to examine carefully the resolution which you presented in Washington. Owing to Dr. Westerfelt's failure to return directly from the meeting a copy of the resolution did not reach me until a day or two since.

Inasmuch as all of the members of the Board left at the time that you did and as no formal vote was taken on the resolution and no opportunity afforded for amendments or suggested changes in the wording thereof I must dissent from your opinion that the resolution should be adjudged the formal act of the Board, although six members of the Board out of the fifteen composing the same express favorable opinions.

Appreciating the importance of the resolution and the desirability of early action thereon I would be pleased if you so request to have a copy of the resolution immediately sent to all of the members of the Board for their vote of approval and have the same reported in connection with the minutes of our meeting.

Had there been sufficient time carefully to examine the wording of the resolution I think that a number of questions would have presented themselves to us in regard thereto. In the first place I think the words "The Directors and Members" in the first line should be omitted in as much as I feel that the resolution should be the pronouncement of the Association as a whole and not that of the Directors and Members individually. I could not vote for this resolution as it now stands as I do not care to pledge myself that through publications, writings, utterances and influence I shall unconditionally use my best endeavors in the direction indicated. If I did so then, as President of the Board of Directors

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of the Rochester school, I should urge the establishment of a segregated oral department quite independent of modifying local conditions or else stultify myself. This objection of mine I think would be overcome if the resolution were worded as follows:

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“Be it resolved that this Association should use every reasonable endeavor, through the medium of publications, writings, official utterances and influence to bring about the establishment of a segregated oral department in every school for the deaf.”

This reading would I think accomplish the object you have in view. A large favorable vote would give added strength to our action and I think this change which may possibly seem purely technical would help to that end.

There is another consideration which I think should not be lost sight of in this connection. Our Association has stood from the outset for the encouragement of speech teaching without in any way dealing with methods and the question might possibly arise whether this resolution approaches the modification of that practice. If you consider it unwise to modify your resolution as above suggested I shall feel obliged to incorporate in the circular to the members an amendment substantially as above indicated. If you will be good enough to let me know your pleasure I will immediately take steps to have the resolution sent out.

I wish also to express a very great satisfaction in having you actively connected with the Association and your activity in that direction cannot fail to produce good results.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours, EL:WGL COPY